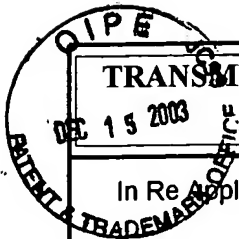


<b>TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> (Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))			Docket No. <b>DDAP:101bUS</b>
In Re Application Of: <b>Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.</b>			
Serial No. <b>10/642,840</b>	Filing Date <b>08/18/2003</b>	Examiner <b>N/A</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3712</b>
Title: <b>TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE</b>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>37 CFR 1.97(b)</b></p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>37 CFR 1.97(c)</b></p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).</p>			



**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
**DDAP:101bUS**

In Re Application: **Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.**

Serial No.  
**10/642,840**

Filing Date  
**08/18/2003**

Examiner  
**N/A**

Group Art Unit  
**3712**

**TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE**

**Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account **50-0822** as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.

**Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile\***

I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. \_\_\_\_\_) on \_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

Signature

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on **Dec. 12, 2003** with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

C. Richard Lohrman

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate

\*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.

Signature

Dated: **Dec. 12, 2003**

**C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.**

**Registration No. 46,878**

**CUSTOMER NO. 24041**

**Simpson & Simpson, PLLC**

**5555 Main Street**

**Williamsville, NY 14221-5406**

**Telephone No. 716-626-1564**

**CRL/KRB**

cc:



**U.S. UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. DDAP:101bUS**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Matter of United States Patent Application:

Applicant(s): Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.

Examiner: N/A

Application No.: 10/642,840

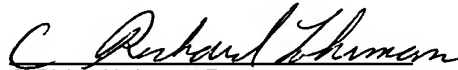
Art Unit: 3712

Filed: 08/18/2003

For: TUBULAR MEMBER COUPLING DEVICE

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement is being deposited on December 12, 2003 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Honorable Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98.

Record is attached of published art for consideration during prosecution of the above-identified patent application. No representation is made or intended that a search has been made or, if made, was complete, or that no more pertinent art than that listed is available. It is expected

that the Patent and Trademark Office will conduct an independent search for relevant prior art.

Unless otherwise indicated, or unless references cited are U.S. patents or patent application publications, a full text copy of the entire reference of published art is attached. Where specifically indicated, an equivalent English language patent or publication is attached in lieu of the translation.

In accordance with the Patent and Trademark Office Notice of August 15, 1980, also enclosed is a completed Form PTO-A820 (Form PTO-1449).

Since the patents, publications, pending U.S. applications and other information listed on attached Form PTO-A820 were previously cited by and submitted to the Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a-c) in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/981,578, filed October 16, 2001 and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/271,035, filed October 15, 2002, which is relied upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120, no copies of the cited references are required.

Respectfully submitted,



C. Richard Lohrman, Esq.  
Registration No. 46,878  
Attorney for Applicant  
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC  
5555 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406  
Telephone No. 716-626-1564

Dated: December 12, 2003

CRL/KRB  
Enclosure

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.

DDAP:101BUS

SERIAL NO.

10/642,840

APPLICANT(S)

Duane J. Duncan and David W. Mielke, Jr.

FILING DATE

08/18/2003

GROUP

3712

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	D367,316	02/20/1996	Sonden et al.			
	D371,189	06/25/1996	Dharmasi et al.			
	D383,195	09/02/1997	Sonden et al.			
	D383,196	09/02/1997	Sonden et al.			
	D386,246	11/11/1997	Sonden et al.			
	5,201,550	04/13/1993	Burkit			
	6,030,005	02/29/2000	Andersson et al.			
	6,062,610	05/16/2000	Andersson et al.			
	6,073,977	06/13/2000	Schmidt-Hansen et al.			
	4,927,189	05/22/1990	Burkit			
	5,769,459	06/23/1998	Graf et al.			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	DE1265514	04/04/1968	Germany				
	SE317843	11/24/1969	Sweden				
	DE2841572	04/03/1980	Schlimbach				
	EPA2 0069098	01/05/1983	Andersson				

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.